

Improvements to begin on running track

CORE keeps base on its toes

Chiefs and Colonels to square off in annual volleyball match

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# Observer

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Main water supply shuts off

The main water supply pipe feeding the base will be temporarily shut off Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for construction. Water on base will be coming from the various water towers around the base. It is important during this time that all base personnel conserve water to ensure an adequate supply for possible emergencies. Avoid watering lawns and trees and try to reduce non-critical water usage.

### First time supervisor course

Barksdale's Top 3 and Team 56 present a professional development course for first-time supervisors.

Classes are open to all NCOs, SNCOs, and officers.

The following classes are held at Hoban Hall:

Thursday, Feedbacks, noon to 4 p.m.




April 29, Maintaining and updating training records, 8 a.m. to noon  
May 13, Corrective Tools, noon to 4 p.m.

May 27, Developing a Decoration, 8 a.m. to noon

Call Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Dunn at 456-4957 or Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hammon at 456-1799.

## 2D BOMB WING SCOREBOARD

2d Bomb Wing Monthly Flying Goals

Depicted in Hours			
Goal:	265.3	438.5	425.9
Flown:	0	0	0
Remaining:	265.3	438.5	425.9
As of:	0	0	0
April 2			

## 96th BS returns from "spring training"

BY LT. COL. ROBERT A. COLELLA  
96TH BOMB SQUADRON COMMANDER

The 96th Bomb Squadron returned from its RED FLAG deployment on March 27 after completing two weeks of intense composite force training at Nellis AFB.

The warriors of the "Red Team" followed on the heels of the 20th Bomb Squadron's success during the first RED FLAG session and hit the ground running with three aircraft, nine aircrews, a host of operations support personnel, and its high-speed, top-notch Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

The entire team took advantage of a great opportunity to deploy, plan, fly, execute, and turn wrenches alongside other professionals from the United States, Spain, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Singapore. The two-week exercise was designed to give aircrews preparing to deploy for Air Expeditionary Force duty the opportunity to train with the other forces on their AEF team, gain a better understanding of the capabilities each brings to the fight and experience the synergy generated when their strengths are fully integrated during the execution of combat operations.

The Airmen that participate in RED FLAG are given the opportunity to fight their way through an intense threat environment that is similar to what they can expect in the early stages of a hostile combat engagement. This "baptism by fire" is designed to achieve one goal: gain combat experience for our youngest Airmen. The theory behind RED FLAG is to give each Airman his first taste of combat over the desert skies of Las Vegas, where mistakes can be debriefed in air conditioned comfort so that when the true test of combat calls, those lessons learned are not re-learned over hostile skies.

RED FLAG is "spring training" for the AEF, a full-dress rehearsal for the next group of forces spinning up to deploy. The 96th Bomb Squadron, since returning from extended deployment for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, has been working hard on its combat fundamentals as it has reconstituted.

The 96th has used a building block train-



Photo courtesy of 96th Bomb Squadron

One of the three B-52s from the 96th Bomb squadron awaits its turn for flight as F-16 Thunderbirds practice overhead at Nellis AFB, Nev., where they participated in an exercise that proved yet again, that the 2d Bomb Wing is ready for anything.

ing approach to perform its many airpower missions. We have had the opportunity to work one-on-one dropping weapons as directed by ground and air liaison teams to hone command and control skills for the close air support mission we were asked to do in Operation ANACONDA over Afghanistan. We have also integrated with other airframes in small-scale composite exercises to learn the capabilities of our airpower brothers in limited exercises. RED FLAG, however, serves as a capstone to take the 96th's game to the next level by integrating it into a multinational force of more than 80 diverse aircraft in a controlled and intense training environment.

For many in the 96th, this was their first RED FLAG experience, and it provided an opportunity to grow with the enormous safety net of supervision that surrounds RED FLAG operations.

The Red Team did fantastic. On several occasions the two-ship formation of B-52s tasked within each strike package was asked to cover more than half of the high priority targets with their lethal mix of 24 GPS-guided Joint Direct Attack Munitions. In addition, on two occasions individual members of the 96th Bomb Squadron led the entire planning effort for the day's strike package, orchestrating the attacks and supporting actions for all 80 aircraft executing strike missions for that day. To top it all off, the 96th AMU provided outstanding

support on the hot Las Vegas flight line and kept the three deployed aircraft flying throughout the two-week exercise, despite the long logistics tail back to Barksdale-Sweat, hustle and can-do attitude - 2d BW standard - ensured maximum firepower for each mission execution.

What were the biggest lessons learned? For the 96th: first-hand experience of how support assets - F-15s providing air support, F-16CJs suppressing enemy air defenses, and EA-6Bs providing standoff jamming support - integrate into the mission to protect the bombers from enemy fighters and missiles, and, more importantly, how each crewmember can work together to better survive in an intense combat environment. For the rest of the Combat Air Force, the 96th delivered a solid understanding of the mass that the B-52 brings to the fight and a greater understanding of the support required to get that firepower over the target to put bombs on target.

Bottom line: The 96th Bomb Squadron is fired up and ready to go when called as part of AEF 9/10. RED FLAG validated the training focus of the 96th Bomb Squadron since its triumphant return from combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fall of 2003. The 2d BW can rest assured that the next generation of Airmen in the 96th Bomb Squadron stand ready to answer the nation's call for long-range global airpower.



## NEWS BRIEFS

## ACC Personal Safety Survey

An Air Combat Command Personal Safety Survey was recently completed. The survey was released March 24, and provided an opportunity for Airmen to speak about sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The information will be used with data collected by the Sexual Assault Assessment Teams and will be included in the command's sexual harassment/assault assessment report to Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley, today.

## Team 56 General Membership Meeting

The April Team 56 general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the enlisted club. Team 56 is open to all staff and technical sergeants and staff sergeant selects.

Call Staff Sgt. Mahalatha Howard at 456-0358 for more information.

## Outstanding performance

Congratulations to 20th Bomb Squadron members 1st Lt. Nicholas Pernell and 1st Lt. Scott Serkin, who were recently chosen out of 249 applicants to attend Undergraduate Pilot Training. Senior Airman Shane Norman also received the prestigious John L. Levitow award at Airman Leadership School.

## AAPIHC

The Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Committee meets every Friday at 3:30 p.m. at the dental clinic conference room. Contact Staff Sgt. Don Slayton at 456-1532 or Senior Airman Darline Bock at 456-9228 if you would like to become a committee member and get involved.

## 3rd Annual Spring Fling

This year's Spring Fling is April 17 at Hoban Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event features live music, crawfish boil, recreational vehicles, boats, arts & crafts booths, travel fair and a children's carnival. Bring your whole family for a day of games, shopping, great food and fun! Volunteers are needed to assist with the event.

Contact the marketing department at 456-6955 if you would like to rent a booth or sign up to be a volunteer.

## DUI UPDATE

## Last DUI: March 27

## 2d Communication Squadron

Total DUI's this year to date: 7

Total DUI's for 2003: 50

33 Active Duty,

27 were rank of Staff Sergeant or below

## Airmen Against Drunk Driving

456-3344

AADD had 24 saves last weekend

274 saves this year.

## CORE made use of TWO

BY COL. MICHAEL MOELLER

2D BOMB WING COMMANDER

EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE, BASE X is in MOPP 4, ALARM RED, FPCON CHARLIE!

Across the base, you heard the Giant Voice announcing these words around the clock. I don't think anyone missed the fact that we were involved in a wing-wide exercise!

2 BW warriors-this has been a critically important week for us...for the first time in almost two years we have had a chance to conduct the employment portion of a Conventional Operational Readiness Exercise (CORE).

We "deployed" to Base X in the Pacific theater and conducted an extremely realistic and stressful simulation of actual combat conditions. At the same time, we never missed a beat and continued to train new B-52 aviators and take care of "home base" daily operations.

I was particularly impressed with the way you took care of each other...day or night, in full chemical defensive gear and warm temperatures.

Each and every person clearly demonstrated the W in our TWO vector-by

working together and trusting each other to do their job right first time, every time, we built an unbeatable team that was able to overcome any challenge-this teamwork is key to our success!

The exercise pushed us hard and gave us a chance to train in areas we normally just simulate. As a result, there were plenty of "mentoring moments" across Base X.

I watched as supervisors at all levels provided quality OJT on wartime tasks. It was also great to see so many people stepping up to the plate and using informal leadership opportunities to make a teammate or a unit more effective. These are the leaders who will make us better at flying, fixing and supporting bomber operations.

At the end of the exercise there were

lots of weary faces, but there was also a clear sense of achievement.

You could feel the power that comes from warriors with positive attitudes.

From our transporters driving in full

combat gear, through our maintainers working with their gas masks on, to our services members serving hot meals while under fire, it was amazing to see the "can-do with excellence" mentality. Despite long, hard days (and nights) everyone can be justifiably proud of a job well done.

We'll take the lessons we learned and incorporate them into the wing's daily training culture and into our operational missions. This exercise is now history, and we look forward to the challenges ahead.

Thanks to your outstanding efforts the Deuce is far better prepared to fly, fight and win...well done!

Pump House, our annex next to the Officers Club.

The combination is available at the fitness center front desk.

## Action Line

The Action Line is your avenue for complaints, suggestions and kudos on services provided at Barksdale. Your comments can help make the base a better place.

Although the Action Line is always available for use, the best and fastest way to resolve problems is through your chain of command or the organization involved.

I encourage you to go that route first. Then, if you still can't resolve it or don't know where to call, I'll be glad to do it for you. I'd also like to hear the positive feedback on your experiences on base.

When calling the Action Line, the messages are recorded. Please leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you if we need more information.

Call or email the Action Line at  
456-4000 or  
actionline@barksdale.af.mil

**Q** uery: Keeping our people in top physical condition is key in the military. Unfortunately, the influx in the amount of people now actively conscientious of their health means there are more people using the fitness center.

Is it possible to re-open the old fitness center or construct another one to accommodate all the new people working out? I believe a base our size should have more than one gym.

**R** esponse: We appreciate your concerns about the crowded conditions in the Fitness Center.

"Fit to Fight" is a great program and is doing what the CSAF intended--getting people to improve their lifestyles. To help reduce the crowding we have asked commanders to be imaginative with their workout location and times.

We have also submitted an expansion project that will get us the required space authorized for our base population.

In the meantime don't forget the

## Key Customer Service Numbers

BX	746-2554
Casualty Office	456-2212
Civilian Pay	456-2741
Civilian Personnel	456-4502
Claims Office	456-2563
Clinic Patient Advocate	456-6361
Commissary	456-8263
Contracting	456-2113
Directory Assistance	456-2252
Environmental Flight	456-4629
Facilities and Utilities	456-3072
Housing	456-4324
Inspector General	456-5049
Law Enforcement	456-2551
Legal Assistance	456-2561
Military Pay	456-4733
Military Personnel	456-2117
Retiree Activities Office	456-4480
Safety	456-2569
Services	456-2475
Travel Pay	456-2766

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# Airmen should be dentally fit to fight

BY COL. GARY VIGIL

2D DENTAL SQUADRON COMMANDER

Great strides have been made in the past 10 years in the Air Force Dental Corp capabilities to provide versatile, quality care with an expeditionary mindset. The cornerstone to this initiative is the Air Force Dental Readiness Assurance Program - commonly referred to as AFDRAP in dental circles. Like the insurance company with a similar sounding acronym, this program is designed to ensure we can assess and provide the dental care every active duty member may need in order to deploy worldwide. The overall goal of the program and the dental service is to identify and treat dental problems that would interfere with a member's ability to do their job at a deployed location.

Like the B-52 and its weapons systems, the human body needs periodic assessments of its subsystems to determine its ability to function properly. AFDRAP can be looked upon as an assessment of one of the body's subsystems. Like the maintenance assessments accomplished on the B-52, the results of such evaluations determine the need for taking care of any discrepancies noted during an inspection, or in this case, the dental examination. The process does not end there for the active duty member or the B-52. The

next step is to determine the priority of any work that needs to be accomplished to get the individual or the aircraft ready to deploy. For dental needs, that's where the AFDRAP classification scheme comes into play. An understanding of the AFDRAP classification is important in meeting every individual's responsibility of maintaining oral health as well as staying dentally ready to deploy.

There are four dental classes in the AFDRAP and each has specific criteria, meaning and priority of care. Dental Class 1 is quite simple. After examination and assessment, the examining dentist will have determined the member has no disqualifying dental conditions and is dentally healthy and ready to deploy. This class has the lowest priority of care. Any elective care desired will have to wait until access to care will allow treatment or any scheduled deployment is completed.

Class 2 indicates the member may have oral conditions that will need addressing but the dentist does not expect any of them to result in a dental emergency within 12 months if not treated.

However, the patient who is placed in a Class 3 status is especially important from a dental readiness point of view. This individual is not worldwide qualified until all of the individual's Class 3 conditions are treat-

ed. Thus, this category of patient has the highest priority for care - not only because the individual should not deploy, but because it will have been determined that they have a dental problem or problems that the examining dentist expects will result in a dental emergency at any time within the next 12 months. For example, the person may have a cavity that is so extensive an abscessed tooth could develop while deployed. If dental care is not readily available in a short period of time at the deployed site the situation could, under the right circumstances, become life threatening!

Finally, Class 4 patients are those individuals who are also not worldwide qualified but for a different reason. Simply put their dental condition is unknown. The vast majorities of individuals placed in this class are overdue for their annual exam and once seen and assessed, can be put into one of the three previous classes discussed. Unlike the Class 3 patient who may need extensive care and appointments, the Class 4 patient's situation can often be resolved with a single appointment: an annual dental exam.

Recent post-deployment demographics have validated the importance of the AFDRAP and the need to address dental problems before, not during, an expeditionary event. In recent Army studies where troops

were deployed to Bosnia, it was noted that individuals sent who were in a Dental Class 3 status resulted in a dental emergency rate of 530 per 1,000 per year, compared to 67 dental emergencies per 1,000 per year for troops who were in a Class 1 status prior to deploying. Cavity-related problems and wisdom teeth were the predominant emergencies encountered: two problems that could have been easily addressed prior to departure.

Ideally, the dental service would like to have everyone in Dental Class 1, but we know that is not possible. Just like the maintenance folks strive to have as many jets as they can ready to go wherever and whenever needed, the dental clinic strives to have as many of Barksdale's warriors ready to deploy in the best of oral health. The AFDRAP helps accomplish this goal in the most expeditious manner. So, the next time your unit health monitor tells you it is time to schedule your annual dental exam, keep in mind the importance of this assessment of your dental health as well as your deployment posture.

Understanding your AFDRAP dental classification will help determine if you are dentally fit to fight. If not, help us to help you to get there - make it to your dental appointments!



## NEWS BRIEFS

**Retirement Ceremony**

Tech. Sgt. Marcie Fetterman, 2d Munitions Squadron, will retire after 21 years of service, April 23 at 3 p.m. at the 2d MUNS conference room. Casual dress for civilians and uniform of the day for military members. Contact Senior Master Sgt. Greg Jackson at 456-4153.

**Commissary open Easter Day**

The Commissary will operate Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Job opening**

The Family Support Center has an opening for an 8C000/FSC Superintendent. The position is a three-year controlled tour available to master sergeants and senior master sergeants who have three years retainability. Packages are due April 26. Call the Family Support Center at 456-8400 for more information and resume package requirements.

**Summer job opportunities**

Temporary employment for lifeguards, general laborers and clerks are available this summer. Applicants must apply to the Barksdale Civilian Personnel Office. Call Misty Bartley at 456-4079 for more information.

**Reserved parking**

Parking in reserved parking areas can lead to a DD Form 1408, an Armed Forces Traffic ticket by 2d Security Forces Squadron. Multiple citations could lead to the loss of driving privileges for one year.

**First Four Airmen Association sponsor talent show**

Auditions will be held tomorrow, Saturday and April 17 at Hoban Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The talent show will be May 1 at Hoban Hall at 3 p.m. The cost for contestants is \$5 and \$4 for attendees.

There will be door prizes and a professional fashion show. Call Senior Airman Jessica Jacobs at 456-5791 for more information.

**South Gate hours**

The South Gate hours of operation have been adjusted to better serve the community. The gate is now open for inbound and outbound traffic from 6 to 8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m.

The gate will be open Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays and wing down days.

**Douhet Drive closed**

Douhet Drive is permanently closed from south of Burger King to the intersection of Curtiss Road for construction.

# Base improves running track

## Rubberized surface has many benefits

BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANDREA KNUDSON  
OBSERVER

Good news for Barksdale runners, joggers and walkers. The running track outside the fitness center starts getting a makeover on Tuesday.

Base members from the 2d Medical Operations Squadron are already looking forward to the track's new rubberized surface.

Captain John Latimer, 2d MDOS, aerospace physiologist, discusses the benefits of the rubberized surface on your body.

"The rubberized track is the preferred running surface for many college and university athletic programs due to the fact that it helps reduce the risk of injury," said Capt. Latimer, who is an avid runner and uses the current track a few times a month. "Common injuries associated with running are shin splints, anterior knee pain, and inflammation of the heel. This type of track surface absorbs the impact of [the] foot striking the ground and helps alleviate the most common injuries associated with running. The rubberized track will definitely be an improvement over the current track."

The new surface will be good for your footwear, too, said Senior Airman James Hale, 2d MDOS, an information

manager, who also runs regularly.

"It will spare the wear and tear on your shoes," said Amn. Hale. "And when you fall, since you'll be essentially falling on rubber, it will not hurt as badly as say -- falling on the [old track] gravel would. It's a good idea because it will create fewer injuries for avid or non-avid runners."

Overall, the new track will offer a safer alternative running source, added Capt. Latimer.

"In addition to being safer, the comfort level associated with a rubberized track is far superior to an asphalt or concrete surface," said Capt. Latimer. "I believe individuals that have never had the opportunity to run on a rubberized track will be pleasantly surprised at how much better it feels."

The replacement track will be dark red with white-lane striping, and the durability will also be improved over the current surface, said Mr. Eric Tillstrom, 2d Civil Engineer Squadron, chief of contracts.

"The [new surface] of the track should greatly enhance the utility of the track as it will be less affected by rain water," Mr. Tillstrom said. "Replacement of the track will begin with modifications to the existing clay base course. A two-inch layer of asphalt is subsequently laid over the compacted

base. [After] a 30-day curing period for the asphalt, a three-eighth inch layer of rubber will be sprayed over the asphalt."

Base members will have some additional options during the construction.

"During resurfacing, track users will be asked to either use the upstairs track at the gym, the track near the Airman Leadership School on the east side of the flight line, or run around the large, grass field in the middle of enlisted housing," said Mr. Jim Dich, Fitness Center director. "The [grass field] area has been measured at 0.56 miles and will be marked and certified for fitness testing. [It's] a short walk or jog from the fitness center."

The new track is another example of the Air Force's continuing commitment to ensuring a better quality of life for its most valuable asset - the people, said Mr. Tillstrom.

"The project is being funded primarily through a Quality of Life initiative spearheaded by Eighth Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, [with] 2d Bomb Wing commander Colonel Moeller providing the remaining funding," said Mr. Tillstrom.

The project should take approximately 90 days to complete barring any down days for weather, Mr. Tillstrom said.

# Officials discuss new civilian system

BY JIM GARAMONE  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—A letter signed by Defense Department leaders asks DOD civilian employees to be patient as teams work to make the new National Security Personnel System a reality.

The April 1 letter, signed by David S.C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, and Navy Secretary Gordon England, stresses that DOD sees the new personnel system as a combined effort.

The system, passed as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, allows DOD officials to transform the civilian personnel system to make it more agile and responsive.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the new system would make it easier for the department to make new hires and keep highly skilled employees. It also would allow DOD to move workers to shortage specialties as national security concerns change, he said.

In the letter, Mr. Chu and Secretary England state, "We are determined to take the time necessary to do the job right."

Taking time will allow the department to consult with employees, managers and unions, a DOD spokeswoman said. The letter encourages people interested in the system to present their thoughts, ideas, views and concerns.

Department officials are also working with other government agencies as they develop the new system. They are con-

sulting with people at the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accounting Office as the new system takes shape. They are also taking lessons from the Department of Homeland Security, which built its own personnel system after it was formed last year.

Five teams within DOD are looking at process, personnel, programs, requirements and communications, officials said. A sixth team will draw recommendations from these five together in one package. That proposal is scheduled to be presented to Secretary Rumsfeld and other senior leaders in April.

Once approved, senior leaders will work with Congress on implementing the system.

Mr. Chu and Secretary England said that the system still is being formed, and few details about how the system would work are available because there is no system yet.

Concepts and proposals will change over time and department leaders will do their best to keep employees informed, they said.

Information will be available on the DOD and DefendAmerica Web sites, the Pentagon Channel and local commanders' television programs.

The Air Force has developed an NSPS Web site at <https://www.dp.hq.af.mil/dpp/dppn/nsps/index.cfm> with news and information about the program.

There is also a link on the Web site to sign up for automatic e-mail updates on NSPS.



# Nothing but the best

BY J. MANNY GUENDULAY  
OBSERVER

The 2d Logistics Readiness Squadron has a few bragging rights this year after being presented with two awards for their excellence in 2003.

The first award, the National Defense Transportation Association Award recognizes the squadron's unusual and outstanding service in logistics and transportation. This award encompasses all aspects of the 2d LRS. Maj. Nathan Mooney, 2d LRS commander, wants to make sure everyone on base understands his squadron's accomplishments.

"Each and every member of the squadron is 'making it happen' on a daily basis by providing stellar customer service to the wing and our associate units. I am amazed everyday at the innovative ideas and initiatives our airman, NCOs, senior NCOs, officers and civilians come up with to help provide the wing outstanding logistics support through vehicle management, aircraft parts distribution, fuels, deployment planning, and cargo movement in order to help the wing meet its mission. They are truly 'nothing but the best,'" said Mooney.

The other award presented to the squadron was the ACC Vehicle Management Award which was presented, as Mooney described, "for an outstanding job supporting the wing through pickups, aircrew runs, delivering critical B-52 parts to the maintainers on the flight line, and performing stellar maintenance to help keep the wing's 800-plus vehicles rolling."

Vehicle Maintenance superintendent Master Sgt. Mike Burleson believes the base has the best maintainers in his career field, but attributes teamwork to being the key to their success.

"Just about everybody here gets along together great. I think we've got outstanding teamwork by everybody in our organization and we've got some of the best maintainers and fleet management personnel in the world," said Burleson.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Horton describes what makes the Vehicle Management shop so strong.

"It's just a lot of hard work, a lot of extra hours, and



J. Manny Guendulay/Observer

**Mr. George Sims, a civilian with the 2d Logistics Readiness Squadron, makes electrical repairs on a MB-4 tractor.**

putting in the little extras to make sure things are right," said Horton.

Mr. Kyle Evans, vehicle maintenance chief, also points out that while it's great to get kudos from the ACC level, personal recognitions are important.

"We get a lot of recognition from our functionals at the ACC headquarters on the quality of our mechanics that we sent to forward locations. When they know their mechanics are coming from Barksdale, they know they are getting some hard working troops."



**Master Sgt. Richard Jelink, Mr. Kyle Evans and Master Sgt. Mike Burleson schedule the next week's repairs.**



**Airman Basic Clyde Rankins, 2 LRS, performs vehicle maintenance on a pickup truck before it is driven around base.**



# Debt collectors must treat debtors fairly

## Vital rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

BY CAPT. SONYA BATCHELOR  
2D BOMB WING JUDGE ADVOCATE

If you use credit cards, owe money on a personal loan, or are paying on a home mortgage, you are a “debtor.” If you fall behind in repaying your creditors, or an error is made on your accounts, you may be contacted by a “debt collector.”

You should know that in either situation, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that debt collectors treat you fairly and prohibits certain methods of debt collection. Of course, the law does not erase any legitimate debt you owe.

This article will answer some commonly asked questions about your rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Debts covered under the act include personal, family, and household debts. This includes money owed for the purchase of an automobile, for medical care, or for charge accounts.

A debt collector is any person who regularly collects debts owed to others. This includes attorneys who collect debts on a regular basis.

A collector may contact you in person, by mail, telephone, telegram, or fax. However, a debt collector may not contact you at inconvenient times or places, such as before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m., unless you agree. A debt collector also may not contact you at work if the collector knows that your employer disapproves of such contacts.

You can stop a debt collector from contacting you by writing a letter to the collector telling them to stop. Once the collector receives your letter, they may not contact you again except to say there will be no further contact or to notify you that the debt collector or the creditor intends to take some specific action. Please note, however, that sending such a letter to a collector does not make the debt go away if you actually owe it. You could still be sued by the debt collector or your original creditor.

A debt collector can contact another person in reference to your debt. If you have an attorney, the debt collector must contact the attorney, rather than you. If you do not have an attorney, a collector may contact other people, but only to find out where you live, what your phone number is, and

where you work. Collectors usually are prohibited from contacting such third parties more than once. In most cases, the collector may not tell anyone other than you and your attorney that you owe money.

Within five days after you are first contacted, the collector must send you a written notice telling you the amount of money you owe; the name of the creditor to whom you owe the money; and what action to take if you believe you do not owe the money.

A collector may not contact you if, within 30 days after you receive the written notice, you send the collection agency a letter stating you do not owe money. However, a collector can renew collection activities if you are sent proof of the debt, such as a copy of a bill for the amount owed.

Certain debt collection practices are prohibited. Harassment is among those prohibited actions. Debt collectors may not harass, oppress, or abuse you or any third parties they contact.

For example, debt collectors may not:

- use threats of violence or harm
- publish a list of consumers who refuse to pay their debts (except to a credit bureau)
- use obscene or profane language
- repeatedly use the telephone to annoy someone.

False statements are also not acceptable. Debt collectors may not use any false or misleading statements when collecting a debt.

For example, debt collectors may not:

- falsely imply that they are attorneys or government representatives
- falsely imply that you have committed a crime
- falsely represent that they operate or work for a credit bureau
- misrepresent the amount of your debt
- indicate that papers being sent to you are legal forms when they are not
- indicate that papers being sent to you are not legal forms when they are.

Debt collectors also may not state that:

- you will be arrested if you do not pay your debt
- they will seize, garnish, attach, or sell your property or

wages, unless the collection agency or creditor intends to do so, and it is legal to do so

•actions, such as a lawsuit, will be taken against you, when such action legally may not be taken, or when they do not intend to take such action.

Debt collectors may not:

- give false credit information about you to anyone, including a credit bureau
- send you anything that looks like an official document from a court or government agency when it is not
- use a false name.

Unfair practices are collection procedures that are also not allowed. Debt collectors may not engage in unfair practices when they try to collect a debt.

For example, collectors may not:

- collect any amount greater than your debt, unless your state law permits such a charge
- deposit a post-dated check prematurely
- use deception to make you accept collect calls or pay for telegrams
- take or threaten to take your property unless this can be done legally
- contact you by postcard.

As the debtor, you do have some control over your payments. If you owe more than one debt, any payment you make must be applied to the debt you indicate. A debt collector may not apply a payment to any debt you believe you do not owe.

If you believe that a debt collector violated the law, you have the right to sue a collector in a state or federal court within one year from the date the law was violated. If you win, you may recover money for the damages you suffered plus an additional amount up to \$1,000. Court costs and attorney’s fees also can be recovered. A group of people also may sue a debt collector and recover money for damages up to \$500,000, or one percent of the collector’s net worth, whichever is less.

Report any problems you have with a debt collector to your state Attorney General’s office and the Federal Trade Commission. Many states have their own debt collection laws, and your Attorney General’s office can help you determine your rights.





# at your SERVICE

Supplement to the *Observer*



Check out  
our website!

[www.barksdaleservices.com](http://www.barksdaleservices.com)

## Officers' Club (456-4926)

### **Easter Brunch**

This is the last chance to make your reservations for Easter Brunch on Sunday. Seatings are available at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. but space is limited. Reservations are required.

The menu will feature a wide array of delicious items. Among them are carved prime rib of beef, red snapper in pepper-corn sauce, Virginia-baked ham, roasted turkey with sage dressing, crawfish etoufee, and a large variety of breakfast, salad and dessert items. Call the club now to get one of the last spots.

### **Mongolian Night**

Asian fare is back by popular demand on April 21 with Mongolian night. Guests build their own entrees by picking from numerous fresh ingredients. Choose from shrimp, beef, chicken or pork, dozens of fresh, crisp vegetables and nineteen exotic sauces. Plates are weighed and cooked to order by the club. The cost is only 45 cents per ounce. Delicious desserts are also available. All ranks are welcome.

### **Haircuts by Appointment**

To better serve its customers, the officers club barber shop is now taking appointments. They are open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon. Get a quality haircut for only \$6.55. As always, walk-in's are also welcome. Call Larry to schedule an appointment at 746-3701.

## Enlisted Club (456-4467)

### **One Dollar Lunch**

Dollar lunch is back by popular demand at the enlisted club on April 27. Show your club card and get the Mega Buffet for only one dollar. This is part of the Members First program. It pays to be a club member.

## Fox Run Golf Course (456-2263)

### **Free Birthday Golf**

What a great present - free golf on your birthday. Come to Fox Run on your birthday, show your identification card or drivers' license and get a free green fee and cart rental. Annual green fee holders will get free cart rental and a free meal of their choosing. It's the golf course's way of thanking its patrons. The pro shop also has lots of equipment and clothes that make great birthday gifts. Call for a tee time.

## Youth Center (456-3448)

### **Colossal Cookie Challenge**

Enter your favorite cookie recipe in the Colossal Cookie Challenge. This contest will be held on May 1 at the BX mall. Prizes will be awarded in several categories: holiday or special occasion cookies, no bake cookies, healthy cookies and cookie-makers' cookies. Sign up at the youth center by April 24 or log on to [www.barksdaleservices.com/cookie.htm](http://www.barksdaleservices.com/cookie.htm).

### **Youth Center Closure**

The Youth Center and the Youth Center Annex will be closed on April 17. Visit the staff at the Spring Fling Kid's Carnival. The monthly "Give Parents a Break" program, however, will be available from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Youth Center and Child Development Center.

## Child Development (456-4139)

### **Car Seat Inspections**

The Child Development Center and Parent Advisory Committee are sponsoring two car seat safety inspection dates. Corporal Aguirre from the Bossier City Police Department will be at the Child Development Center on April 16 and 23 from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. conducting child car safety seat inspections. Parents must come by the center and make an appointment to have their child's car seat inspected. Call 456-4139, for more information or to schedule an appointment.

## Gifts and Getaways (456-1865)

### **Battlewings Tickets**

Are you ready for some football? Arena football is here and Gifts and Getaways is the place to get Bossier-Shreveport Battlewings tickets and schedules. The savings are huge...military get from 23-40 percent off normal gate prices. Get in on the hard-hitting, high-scoring action.

### **Half-price Six Flags Tickets**

Spring is here and Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park is now open. Six Flags is only a three-hour drive from Barksdale and is something that the whole family will enjoy. The park features giant roller-coasters, various rides, lots of entertainment, food and fun.

Tickets are less than half price for military, only at Gifts and Getaways in the BX Mall and start at \$25. Stop by to take advantage of these huge savings. We can also make discount hotel reservations.

# WIN \$1,000

## Thursday Night Jackpot Bingo

*at the Officers Club*

**Early Bird Bingo at 5:30 p.m.  
Jackpot Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Club members get \$2 off Bingo packs**

# You are Invited!



**Live Music  
Crawfish Boil  
Kid's Carnival**

**Arts & Crafts Fair  
Travel Fair  
Recreation Fair**

## Fitness Center (456-4135)

### **Track Closure**

The Fitness Center track will be closed Tuesday - June 21 for renovation. A new rubberized track will be installed at this time. Only a small crossing portion will be available for soccer players. Flat-soled shoes are required and spiked shoes are prohibited on the crosswalk. The crosswalk will close after soccer season.

## Family Child Care (456-8912)

### **Own Your Own Business**

Become a small business owner. Be a family child care provider and earn extra money while staying at home with your children. Training, equipment and supplies are free. Spouses living off-base and DOD spouses are also eligible. Licensing is mandatory for base residents caring for other children more than 10 hours.



# Cajun Warrior Attitude

Catch it!



J. Manny Guendulay/Observer

## Airman First Class Xavier Somers

**Hometowns:** Jamaica and Bridgeport, Conn.

**Unit:** 2d Logistics Readiness Squadron

**Job Title:** Supply apprentice

**Job Description:** To store and issue supply assets to support Barksdale's mission

**Most rewarding job aspect:** Knowing that my section supports and upholds every B-52 mission at Barksdale

**Goals:** To finish school and become commis-

sioned as an officer.

**Hobbies:** Shopping, swimming, listening to music and being outdoors

**What motivates my winning attitude:** The support I get from my family: my mom, sister, and four brothers, and my extended military family

**Favorite TV show:** "Good Times"

**Favorite movie:** "Lord of the Rings"

**Favorite performer:** Sean Paul

**Favorite food:** Anything Jamaican

**Favorite Book:** "Comanche Sunset"

**Person I admire the most:** My mother

**I'm proudest of:** My own achievements

**Best day of my life:** When I went back to Jamaica

**My best asset is:** My winning attitude towards accomplishing my goals in life

**Pet peeve:** People who lie

**What I like most about Barksdale:** The friendly people

**If I could change anything about Barksdale, it would be:** The dorms

**Most influential person for you in the Air Force and why:** Tech. Sgt. Andreas Smith, because he exemplifies how I one day would like to be

## 2d Logistics Readiness Squadron at a Glance

**Group Commander:** Col. Colleen Duffy  
**Squadron Commander:** Major Nathan Mooney

**First Sergeant:** Senior Master Sgt. Julio Perez  
**Squadron Motto:** Nothing but the best!



## BARKSDALE'S AIRMAN OF THE MONTH

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JUSTASIA LEHMANN  
OBSERVER

A member of the 2d Operation Support Squadron was recently named 2d Bomb Wing Airman of the Month.

Senior Airman Chris Jackson Sr., 2d OSS functional system administrator, was Airman of the Month for February.

Airman Jackson, who is responsible for computer maintenance for more than 650 users and over 1,000 systems, was very pleased with his first-time win.

"It felt good," Airman Jackson said.

As a functional system administrator, Airman Jackson also supplies access to Non-Secure Internet Routing Protocol Network and Secure Internet Routing Protocol Network.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Langham, 2d OSS, who has been Airman Jackson's supervisor for eight months, was proud his airman

won the award.

Like Airman Jackson, Sgt. Langham believes he won because of preparation.

"It also didn't hurt that I'm studying for staff sergeant," said Airman Jackson.

Airman Jackson said his co-workers congratulated him and told him to keep up the good work when they found out he won.

Airman Jackson also won Airman of the Month at his squadron and group levels before moving on to compete for the wing level award.

Airman Jackson feels that programs like this are essential to the Air Force.

"It's very important; it promotes morale not only for the individual but for the organization as well," said Airman Jackson.



# Base Chapel Services

456-2111

Duty Chaplain for  
Emergencies: 456-2151

Catholic

Confession, Chapel Two, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Mass, Chapel Two, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Mass, Chapel Two, Sunday, 9 a.m.

Confraternity Christian Doctrine, Chapel Two, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Mass, Chapel One, Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant

Liturgical Communion Service, Chapel One, Sunday 9 a.m.

Community Worship Service, Chapel Two, Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Inspirational Gospel Worship Service, Chapel Two, Sunday Noon

Contemporary Praise Service, Chapel Two, Sunday 6 p.m.

Family Night, Chapel Two, Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

## Holy Week Services

### Catholic Services

Palm Sunday and Holy Week of the Lord's Passion services will be held Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in Chapel Two and Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in Chapel 2 and then again at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel One. A Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Holy Thursday, April 8 at 7 and 10:30 p.m. in Chapel Two. Chapel Two holds the Good Friday Liturgy and Distribution of Holy Communion at 3 p.m. in Chapel Two. Easter Vigil Mass is held at 7:30 p.m. in Chapel Two and then Easter Mass begins at 9 a.m. in Chapel Two and 11:30 a.m.

### Protestant Services

A Good Friday Tenebrae takes place at 7 p.m. in Chapel Two with scriptural accounts of Jesus' Passion, music, and brief meditations. Sunrise Service is Easter Sunday just before sunrise, outside Chapel Two at 6:45 a.m., weather permitting, with a breakfast following. Easter Worship services are as follows: Liturgical at 9 a.m. in Chapel One, community at 10:30 in Chapel Two, Inspirational at noon in Chapel Two, and Contemporary at 6 p.m. at Chapel Two.



## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

456-8400

Reservations required for all events.

## Resume workshop

Airmen and spouses are invited to this workshop on Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. The craft of resume and cover letter building will be covered in the seminar, which will also provide key information regarding how to find a job as well as communicating with potential employers

## Relocation briefing

All PCSing members must attend a relocation briefing at least 90 days prior to their departure date. Airmen will learn about the many resources available to make a smooth and pleasant transition to their next duty assignment. Spouses are always encouraged to attend.

## English as a 2nd Language

This class, offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m., provides essential language skills to assist students, personally and professionally, learning to speak, read and write English. These skills can aid in the transition to American culture.

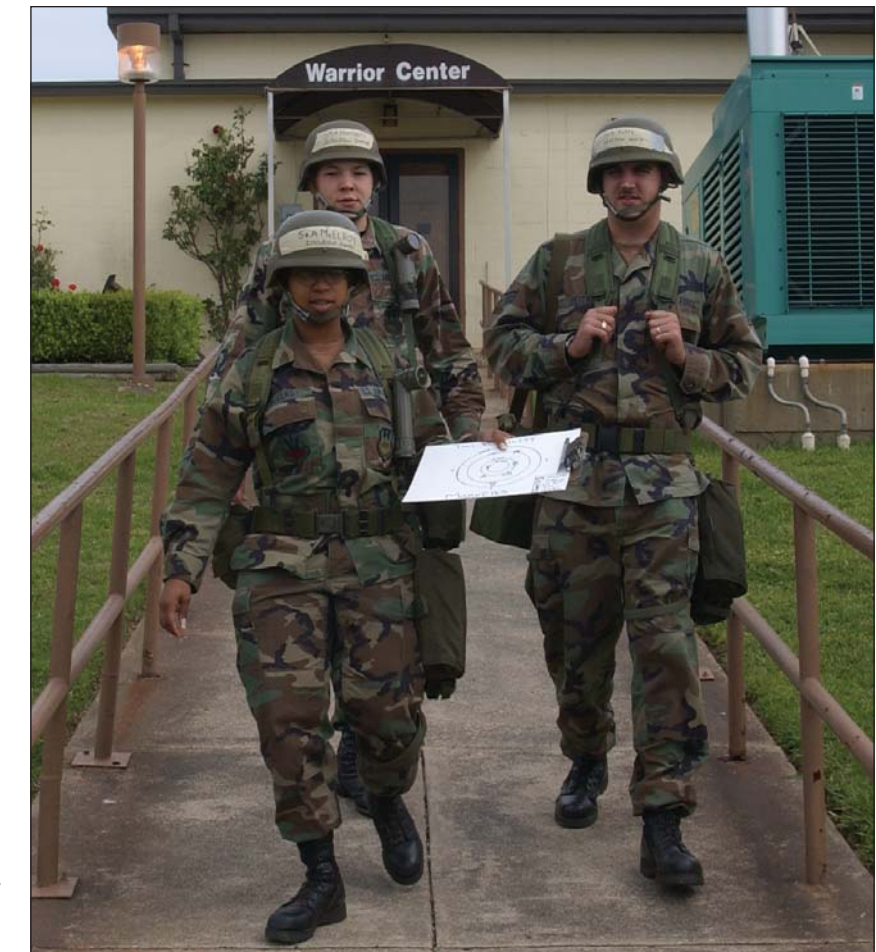
## Moving Off-Base Seminar

This seminar, on Wednesday from 8 to 9:30 a.m., provides Airmen with information about how to transition from living in a base dormitory to a place in the local community. Topics include how to prepare for apartment living, budgeting, roommate selection and managing and reducing debt.

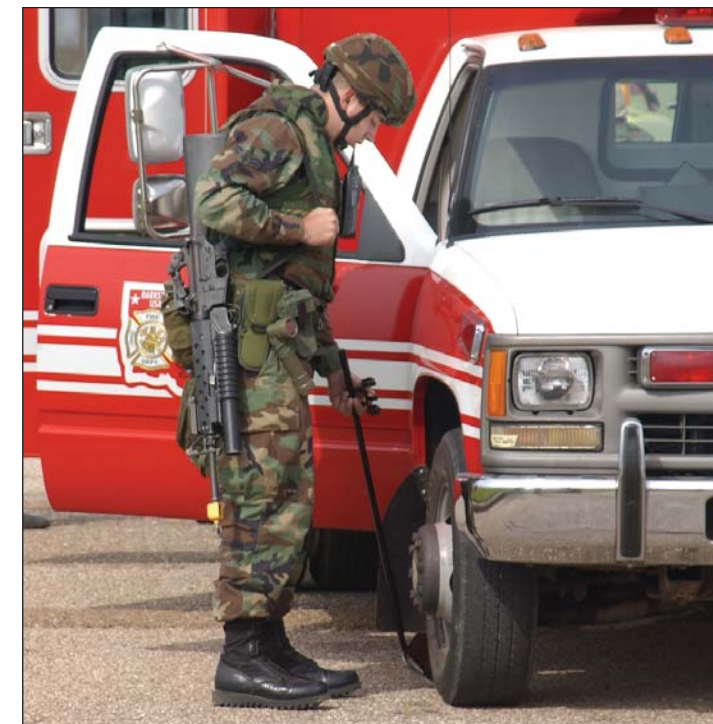


# CORE:

## KEEPING BARKSDALE'S WARRIORS READY



CORE, the conventional operations readiness exercise, started Sunday evening and continued through Wednesday afternoon. During the exercise, Barksdale airmen participated in a mock attack. Left: During CORE, all vehicles entering the compound were searched for any possible stowed munitions or terror devices. Far Left: A Barksdale airman works on a unexploded ordnance device that was been found during the exercise. Bottom left: Another airman guards the warrior center during the exercise. Bottom right: One of Barksdale's B-52H's prepares for a sortie on the Barksdale flight line. Right: Three airmen participating in the CORE exercise leave from the warrior center. The Warrior center was the center of operations for the exercise. Top Right: Two airmen work at a mobile computer station at the center of operations.





# Summer academy promises education, fun

BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANDREA KNUDSON  
OBSERVER

The weather's warming up and soon school children will be on their summer break, possibly feeling restless and looking for fun. STARBASE Louisiana has a program that can fill the void as well as provide an educational atmosphere.

STARBASE Louisiana Middle School Summer Academy: Funtastic Flight 2004, promises aspiring young scientists an exciting week of hands-on investigation and discovery of science, math and technology, said STARBASE executive director, Sheila Schencke.

"Funtastic Flight 2004 is a Department of Defense-funded day camp that lets students focus on aviation through experiments, computer applications, rocketry, flight simulations and robotics," said Mrs. Schencke, who has been a STARBASE director for eight years, five of which have been at Barksdale. "Activities include chemistry, microscopy, physics, geometry, art, and problem solving - all in an atmosphere that excites the mind."

The summer academy is a five-day program beginning June 21 and is open to students entering grades six and seven who have access to the base.

The mission of the STARBASE program, which is part of the 917th Wing, is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of youth in math, science, technology, and personal goal setting by exposing them to technological environments, training, and positive role models that are available on military bases and installations.

"Students work together on projects involving application of the scientific principles presented in the activities while challenging them to apply higher-order thinking skills," said Mrs. Schencke. "However, make no mistake; the program emphasizes fun!"

Staff Sgt. Arnold Merry, 2d Medical Operations Squadron, enrolled his son Arnold in the program last summer and they both agree it was a great time.

"STARBASE is full of fun, excitement, [with] new ideas to learn through scientific situations," said Sgt. Merry. "Arnold especially liked doing the experiments and meeting new people."

The program is limited to the first 24 students who pre-register.

"Pre-registration forms received after the first 24 will be placed on a waiting list," said Mrs. Schencke. "Great interest is expected in the program, so only those committed to participating the whole time should apply."

Participation in the summer academy is free, but there is one requirement: a commitment to attend all day for the entire five days, said Mrs. Schencke.

"Also, campers are responsible for providing their own lunches with beverages, and a new, plain white T-shirt," Mrs. Schencke added. "The white T-shirt is for a chemistry activity -- "Radial Chromatography" in which the students' experiments [will] result in a tie-dye look on their shirts."

STARBASE Louisiana's summer academy has been available to children on Barksdale for six years running.

"The summer programs have changed over the years, but have maintained the same focus of fun with science, math and technology using aviation as a theme," said

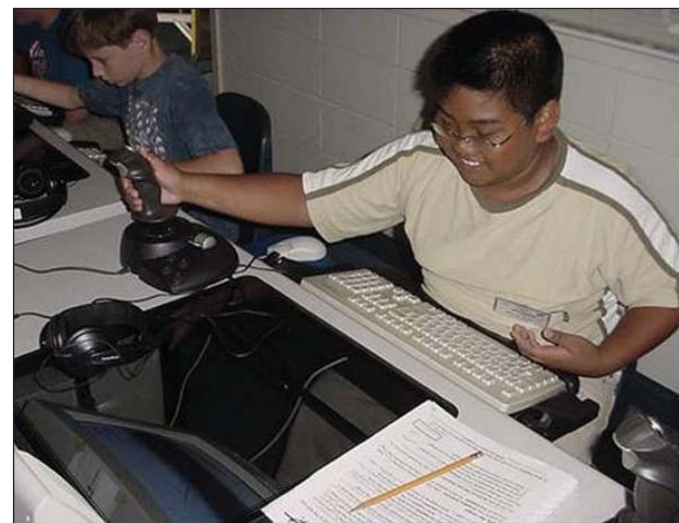


photo courtesy of STARBASE Louisiana

**Middle school student Arnold Merry uses flight simulator during last year's STARBASE Louisiana's summer academy program. Arnold said he would like to attend the program this summer also.**

Mrs. Schencke. "Our year-round staff of four is comprised of all certified teachers who will be instructing the summer academy."

STARBASE will accept registration forms starting April 26. Forms are due no later than 3 p.m. on May 24.

Registration forms are available at the STARBASE office, the base youth center, and on the STARBASE website at: [www.26ows.barksdale.af.mil/starbase/](http://www.26ows.barksdale.af.mil/starbase/).

Contact Mrs. Schencke at 456-1300 for more information.



## Community Briefs



### Missileers Reunion

The AMMS Missileers reunion committee is working to plan an event for April 22-25 at the Ramada Inn in Bossier City. The guest speaker will be Retiree Activities Director, Ret. Col Steve DePyssler.

For more information, contact Buck Leach at 747-7779 or e-mail dyde957-89@aol.com.

### Youth Symphony

The ArkLaTex Youth Symphony Orchestra invites the community to their annual Benefit Bash - A Salute to Heroes, to be held April 19 at 6 p.m., at the Catholic Center on 3500 Fairfield Road in Shreveport.

A dinner of chicken spaghetti will be served followed by a concert showcasing the talent of our young musicians. Tickets are available for \$10/person in advance or at the door.

Formed in 1950, the Ark-La-Tex Youth Symphony Orchestras are enjoying their 54th season of making music.

The organization is comprised of student musicians from the beginning level to the advanced high school player. The groups rehearse each Monday night and enjoy a season that includes two major concerts and numerous smaller concerts throughout the school year.

Call 868-9689 for more information.

### Clever dog tricks contest

The third annual Dixie Chimps Festival is scheduled for April 25 at the Festival Plaza in downtown Shreveport from noon until 4 p.m.

The finalists will compete and Radar, the Weather Dog, and the KSLA weather men will be there as well.

The free festival is an opportunity for the whole family to learn more about Chimp Haven, its mission and the chimpanzees that will soon live in Caddo parish.

**Education  
Center**  
456 - 2615



### CLEP testing update

The CLEP eCBT \$50 fee is now funded for eligible military people at "Military-Friendly" national test centers. Appropriate military identification and an identification with signature is required.

The local test center fee charged by the centers is not funded and must be paid by the student. In our area, the college board has identified Louisiana State University at Shreveport as "Military Friendly."

Interested students should contact the test center at 797-5187 to reserve a date and time for testing.

### Test-taking class

Test-Taking/Study Skills classes are being held in April. These classes help Airmen develop the needed skills required to pass their Career Development Course, prepare for WAPS testing and succeed in college courses.

The next classes are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday and April 28 and 29 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 456-2615 to sign up.

### Praxis exam

The Praxis exam, formerly the National Teachers Exam, is scheduled for administration on June 14 at 8 a.m. This exam is open to active-duty military, Reserves and National Guard only.

Deadline to sign up is May 12.

### WORD Class

An intermediate WORD 2000 class is scheduled for April 20 and 21 at the center. Active-duty military have priority for this class but it is open to all on a standby basis.

Seating is limited to the first 14 students. Call 456-2615 for more information and to sign-up for the class.

## The Movies

B A S E T H E A T E R

### Today

7 p.m. — "Confessions of a Drama Queen"

**Lindsey Lohan, Adam Garcia** — New York City teenager, Lola, rules her school. She's the most popular kid around and assumes that will always be the case. But when her family moves to the suburbs, she finds that at her new school, Carla is the "drama queen" in residence.

### Saturday

7 p.m. — "Twisted" R

**Ashley Judd, Samuel L. Jackson** — Police detective Jessica Shepard tracks a serial killer who murders the men she dates. When Jessica begins blacking out before each murder takes place, her partner, Mike Delmarco, and the police commissioner target her as the prime suspect.

### Sunday

7 p.m. — "Eurotrip" R

**Scott Mechlowicz, Michelle Trachtenberg** — Scott thinks his German pen pal is a guy. But when he discovers that Mieke is actually a hot babe, Scott and his buddy Cooper buy plane tickets and head across the Atlantic to visit.

### Friday, April 16

7 p.m. — "Hildago" PG-13

**Viggo Mortensen, Omar Sharif** — A 3,000-mile survival race across the Arabian Desert is restricted to the finest Arabian horses ever bred, the purest and noblest line, owned by the greatest royal families. In 1890, a wealthy Sheik invited an American and a horse to enter the race.

Movies  
are subject  
to change  
without notice.

Admission: Adults \$2.50  
Children \$1.25

## "What's Cooking?"

Red River Dining Facility

Items subject to change

### TODAY

Lunch — Swiss steak, baked chicken, stuffed peppers  
Dinner — Italian sausage, lasagna, spaghetti

### SATURDAY

Brunch — Ribeye steak, Cajun meatloaf, baked chicken  
Supper — Pork chops, fish almondine, stir-fry chicken

### SUNDAY

Brunch — Sauerbraten, tuna and noodles, chicken breasts  
Supper — Spinach lasagna, barbecued chicken, fried shrimp

### MONDAY

Lunch — Swiss steak, baked chicken, knockwurst  
Dinner — Baked ham, fish and fries, roast turkey

### TUESDAY

Lunch — Yakisoba, Salisbury steak, lemon-baked fish  
Dinner — Barbecued beef, pork chop suey, paprika beef

### WEDNESDAY

Lunch — Beef porcupines, chicken enchiladas, Caribbean-jerk chicken  
Dinner — Country-style steak, pita pizza, fried chicken

### THURSDAY

Lunch — Liver, tempura-fried fish, spiced pork chops  
Dinner — Pepper steak, ginger pot roast, baked chicken

### FRIDAY, April 16

Lunch — Beef and corn pie, seafood Newburg, veal steaks  
Dinner — Pot roast, corned beef, pineapple chicken





# Sports Shorts



## Archery

Outdoor Recreation will host 3-D archery tournaments on the following dates: April 18, May 23 and June 27 with starting times between 9 a.m. and noon.

The fees are: Pro-\$25, Non-members-\$10, Members, Youth and Cub-\$5 and Pee Wee-free.

Call Marilyn Biren at 456-3426 for more information.

## Hunting

Turkey hunting season dates are Monday through April 18. Turkey hunting will be allowed from legal morning shooting time until noon only. The only exception is April 17, when hunters may hunt all day.

Department of Defense personnel may each sponsor one guest to hunt. DoD personnel must register for the hunt. There is a two turkey season limit.

Contact the Natural Resources Office at 456-3353 for more information.

## Golf lessons

"Link Up to Golf" is a new program designed to teach beginners basic skills and comfort with the course.

Students will get six classes, each lasting approximately 1.5 hours with a maximum of six students in each class for \$99. This enables the instructor to provide quality, one-on-one instruction.

Each playing session will consist of approximately three holes and during this time etiquette, course management, speed of play, caring for the course, and rules will be discussed.

Clubs will be provided for those who need them. Class is limited to six students.

The first session is April 27 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on the driving range. The class will run through mid-May.

Call the golf course at 456-2263 for more information.

## Golf season

The 2004 golf season is scheduled to begin April 27. The deadline for entry is today. A coaches meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 2:30 p.m. at the golf course.

Contact Staff Sgt. Scott Robertson at 456-4135 for more information

## Softball

The 2004 Softball season is set to begin May 24. The deadline for entry is May 5.

A coaches meeting is scheduled for May 5 at 2:30 p.m. at the sports and fitness center.

Call Staff Sgt. Scott Robertson at 456-4135 for more information.

## Paintball

The Paintball range on the east reservation will be open for action on the following dates: Saturday and May 1.

Two sessions are offered: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The \$12 fee covers the rental of the gun, mask, CO2 refills and the first 100 rounds of ammo. Additional paintballs must be purchased on site. Come dressed to play with long-sleeved shirts and full-length pants.

A reservation must be made by the Friday prior.

Call Marilyn Biren at 456-3426 for more information.

## Unit competition

A base wide push-up and sit-up unit competition is scheduled for April 29. The competition will be held at the sports and fitness center.

Call the sports and fitness center at 456-4135 for more information.

# Chiefs vs. Eagles Volleyball Massacre

## Annual competition; fun, friendly, fierce

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. JOSEPH LAVIGNE

2D BOMB WING COMMAND CHIEF

Each spring, the Barksdale chiefs come out of hibernation to do what they do best...defeat the Barksdale Colonels in the coveted Annual Chiefs vs. Eagles Volleyball trophy.

The yearly event began in 1996 as a way for the Chiefs to raise funds used to support all types of enlisted recognition programs.

Since the first match, the Chiefs have walked away with the trophy with two exceptions.

Some folks recall the Colonels actually legitimately winning the match several years ago.

Last year, after handing the Colonels a 15-0 slaughter in the first match, some questionable recruiting tactics surfaced, and the colonels actually won the last two matches, giving them the trophy.

The tactics included double, and in some cases triple frocking of junior officers, so they could play on the Colonels' team.

That wasn't the only thing that happened.

It seems several of the chiefs were given very short-notice TDYs, keeping them on the road just long enough for the Colonels to win.

The date for this year's match was set after careful coordination to prevent the same thing from happening.

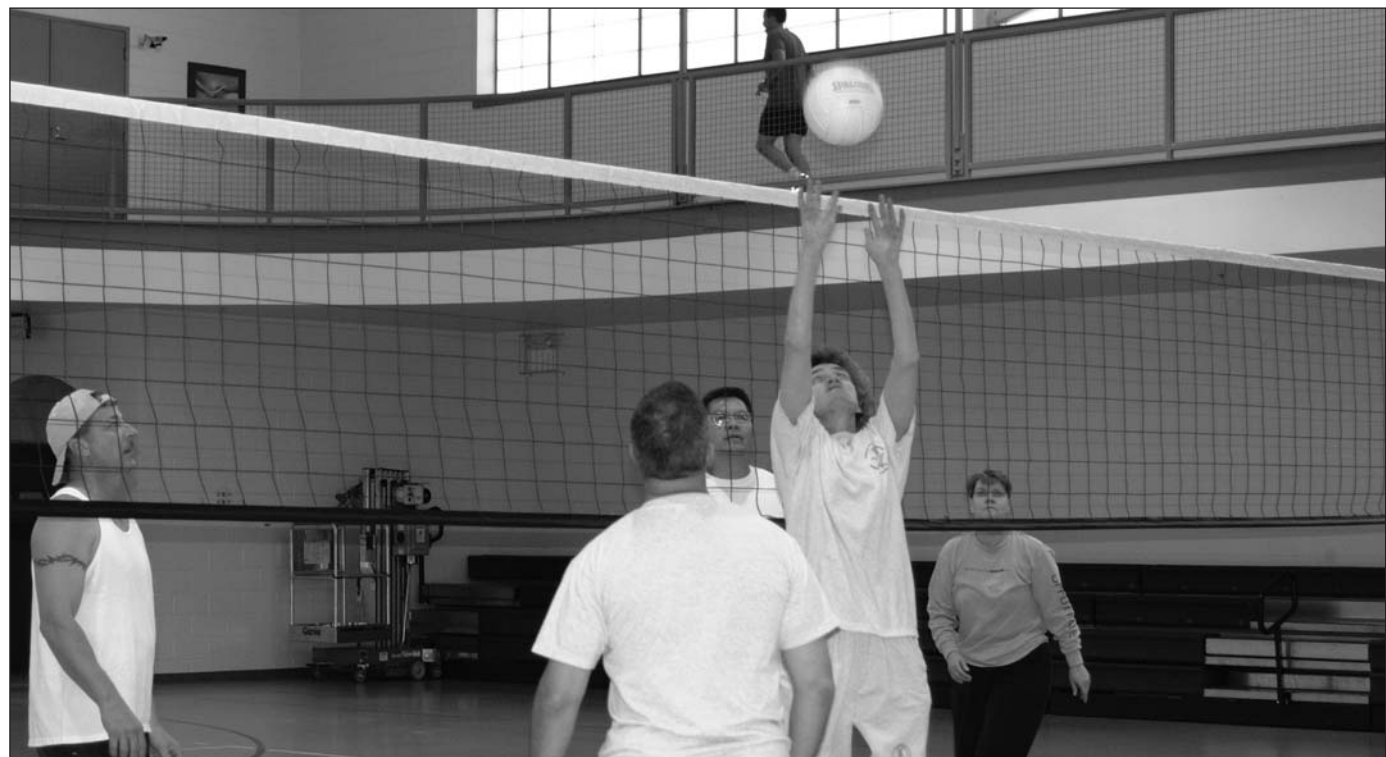
We've already begun secret practice sessions, and will have a few tricks up our sleeves this year. Plus, we've got some phenomenal players returning, as well as some new blood on our team. The trophy will be back where it belongs very soon.

The match takes place April 20 at the base sports and fitness center. The first match begins promptly at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$2 and may be purchased from any Barksdale chief. Each ticket is also entered into a drawing for door prizes.



The Chiefs execute several strong set ups during practice on Tuesday, and look forward to defeating the Eagles on April 20 at the base fitness center. Tickets for the friendly game of volleyball are available for purchase from any Barksdale chief master sergeant for \$2.



Senior Airman Andrea Knudson/Observer

Barksdale Chief Master Sergeants practice their volleyball skills during Tuesday's practice at the base fitness center. The annual Chiefs vs. Eagles volleyball match began in 1996 as a way to raise funds for various enlisted recognition programs. The Chiefs have said the colonels, or Eagles, who will hold their first practice on Monday, may have used some "questionable" recruiting tactics in previous games. The Chiefs hope to take home the coveted trophy April 20.